No. 43 - JUNE 1993

UNESCO

SOURCES

Readers, we have reserved this page for your comments, suggestions and criticisms. Consider it yours !

WORKCAMPS AND WORKCAMPS

Jules Ferret
Primary school teacher, retired
Béziers, France

I enjoyed your excellent article on International Voluntary Service (Sources, No. 46, p. 14) - a praiseworthy institution, as useful for the countries which benefit from these services as it is for the promotion of mutual understanding among young people from different countries who take part.

Your title, or rather your subtitle, however, contains a phrase which has particularly disagreeable connotations for a man of my age who lived through the Nazi occupation of France. I am referring to the "Chantiers de Jeunesse" (youth workcamps) created by the Government of Vichy to serve the Nazi occupant.

Of course today's "workcamps" have nothing in common with those set up during World War II. A common name for two institutions with goals so diametrically opposed is, therefore, all the more shocking. Let us hope that, thanks to the action of today's youth, this otherwise laudable label will be rehabilitated.

AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE AND REFERENCE TOOL

Vincent Piolo
Chief, NGO and Institutional Relations Section,
Department of Public Information
United Nations, New York, U.S.A.

In view of my recent appointment, I am taking this opportunity to present my compliments, and to inform you of our continued interest in your monthly. Because of the wide range of topics it addresses - from literacy, the environment, or human rights, to the arts and sciences - we find UNESCO Sources to be an important resource and reference tool for the diverse NGOs (over 1,400) with which we are associated.

A WINDOW OPEN ON THE WORLD

Deo N. Nhwan
Rukungiri
Uganda

I was a regular recipient of your earlier publications throughout the 1970s, but lost contact during the 1980s perhaps because of the turmoil in Uganda during that period.

Now that the situation has somewhat settled down, I yearn for reading materials - such as UNESCO Sources. In other words, I long for a window open on the world.

I am certain that you understand very well what it is to be brought up in a rural area in the Third World. I therefore look forward, eagerly and optimistically, to receiving your magazine.

WHAT ABOUT SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION?

Carlos A. Fernandez-Jauregui
Hydrologist
UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROSTLAC),
Montevideo, Uruguay

As an assiduous reader of UNESCO Sources I wish to congratulate you on your February-March (No. 45) issue: *Latin America: A Strategy for Hope*.

All the articles in this number contain a clear message of hope and high expectations. I was surprised, however, to see the little importance assigned to cooperation in science and technology, and in particular to the case of hydrology and water resources in Latin America. Indeed, it can be said that Latin America is one of the regions having undertaken major responsible efforts in the last five years in the arid, semi-arid, humid tropical and island zones, with results that are of public knowledge. All these activities have been carried out in the framework of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

ITCHING TO TELL

Marilyn Ross
Solicitor
Rotorua
New Zealand

Do I dare tell all to a serious review like SOURCES concerned with matters vital to the future of the planet, such as that addressed in an article entitled "Mission Impossible" in your May issue (No. 47, page 11)? Do I dare share with you my daily irritations or, to put it bluntly, my itching skin?

My problem, admittedly rather superficial, is however not without bearing on current preoccupations in the domain of ecology: respect nature! we tell ourselves, economize energy! recycle wastes - bottles, paper, plastic!

So what has this to do with my itching? I'm getting there. As everyone worried about the environment and eager to respect the principles of sustainable development, I changed my soap powder to one advertised as "ecological". Shortly after that I developed an itchy rash, especially around the waist. Still I failed to make the connection. I did, however, consult my dermatologist who said, *"Change you washing powder! The one you're using is 'green' all right! It doesn't let any toxic substances seep back into nature. It simply leaves them in your underwear."*

In short, how do we achieve a satisfactory balance between massive wastes and personal health? And, exactly what do we teach our children and those in the Third World? If not impossible, this mission is indeed very difficult.

READEX
FICHE

A TESTING TRADE

UNESCO's founders - those who framed its Constitution as the Second World War was ending - believed fiercely and eloquently in free enquiry. They saw it as the motor of advancement in the sciences, the humanities and arts and in education. Intellectual freedom cannot exist in the absence of free expression of ideas. And so UNESCO had to be involved in Communications as a guarantor of "free flow" within and between countries. The Cold War's passions and polarization threatened to compromise that commitment and it was therefore essential to return UNESCO to its ethical roots - to ensure that freedom and pluralism would guide its policies in the fields of communication and information. These efforts to achieve this fundamental aim ended successfully in November 1989, as the Berlin Wall came down...

To inform is neither mere mechanical transmission, nor vocation or exact science. It is a trade that, perhaps more than any other, is learnt "on the job". It is a testing, difficult trade. In this regard, its code of ethics can only be determined by its practitioners. Journalists, leave to no-one else the task of dictating your code of conduct! It is your responsibility to decide on this, and to ensure that the profession respects it. The review and evolution of this code as the need arises, as changes and innovations modify the frame within which you work, is also up to you, as is the analysis of its impact. I am thinking, for example, of the problems posed by the domination of audiovisual media, the flood of information, market volatility and the risks and advantages of the "information society". Certainly, the debate can, and must, involve all of the component groups of civil society, but it is up to the profession, exclusively, to draw the conclusions.

(Extracts from the speech of Director-General, Federico Mayor, upon accepting the Press Freedom prize awarded to him by the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers (FIEJ) in Berlin, May 25, 1993).

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UNESCO SOURCES

BOOKS

THE SILK AND SPICE ROUTES: Exploration by Sea

This richly illustrated volume traces the Spice Routes which stretched for over 15,000 km around Asia - from China's seas, across the Indian Ocean, up the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf and

overland to the Mediterranean. The ships and boats that sailed them faced violent storms, treacherous reefs and pirate attack, not to mention long absences from home and family. But from before records began, people have been tempted to travel these routes - to look for trade or treasure or just to satisfy their curiosity. The book tells of the adventures these travellers had, their finds and contacts, exploring the Spice Routes.
It is part of a series relating the story of the Silk and Spice Trade between China in the East - Europe to the West, the way it linked cultures over the centuries, and influenced the people and communities it connected. The books are co-published with Belitha Press in the context of UNESCO's project, the "Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue" under which a number of expeditions over land and sea, have retraced the journeys of those who travelled these routes down the ages. Other titles in the series include *Exploration by Land, Inventions and Trade,* and *Culture and Civilizations.*

● ***Exploration by Sea,*** *by Struan Reid. In* ***The Silk and Spice Routes*** *series, UNESCO/ Belitha Press 1993, 48 pp., illus., 72 FF.*

UNESCO SOURCEBOOK FOR SCIENCE IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL: A workshop approach to teacher education

In many parts of the world, science education occupies a comparatively insignificant place in primary-school education. Teacher training is one of the keys to this problem. Stressing methods which teachers can apply in their schools, this sourcebook provides a variety of materials for use both in group - work and by individual teachers for independent study.

● ***UNESCO Sourcebook for Science in the Primary School:*** *A Workshop approach to teacher education, by Wynn Harlen and Jos Elstgeest, UNESCO 1992, 271 pp., 70 FF.*

AN ELUSIVE EAGLE SOARS: Anthology of Modern Albanian Poetry

Because Albania was cut off from the outside world for almost half a century, its young and dynamic literature is a virtual *terra incognito.* Now after a long enforced silence, the Albanians have much to tell. This groundbreaking anthology, selected and translated by noted Albanologist Robert Elsie, offers the first English introduction to this little-known Balkan culture. The wide-ranging selection gives a broad panorama of Albanian poetry from the 1930s to the present.

● ***An Elusive Eagle Soars:*** *Anthology of Modern Albanian Poetry. UNESCO/Forest Books 1993, 213 pp., 80 FF.*

PERIODICALS

IMPACT of science on society

Photography: an art or a technique? was a debate that arose during the earliest decades of photography, between advocates of its artistic aspects and upholders of a more utilitarian perspective. Omnipresent and accessible to all, photography has acquired greater and greater importance in a large variety of fields, to become by the end of the 20th century both a means of artistic expression and a powerful tool in the service of science and industry. This issue (No. 168) traces the history of photography and the development of technical processes, and relates some of its major scientific applications. It also deals with topics such as amateur photography and the restoration of the photographic image.

PROSPECTS

Pluralistic education in a changing world: II. Case Studies. Following "Positions and Propositions", this issue (No. 82) presents the real situation in sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, Latin America, India, Central, Eastern and Western Europe. But, asks the editorial, "Can we *think about pluralism when long-established borders are challenged, when whole populations know only hunger, fear and exile? Where there are schools, who is thinking of sending children to them to learn tolerance and pluralism? More likely, they will be used to pile up the dead and wounded... But, nothing is irreversible: whatever the devastation we see or suspect, pluralism always lies ahead of us."*

THE UNESCO COURIER

Minorities. What is a minority? Does a group become a minority simply by virtue of regarding itself as one? Can any and every minority invoke the right to self-determination? Are there principles for ensuring peaceful coexistence between majorities and minorities? These are among the provocative and timely questions posed in an editorial by UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor introducing the *Courier*'s June issue which also includes an interview with Italian writer Umberto Eco.

RECORDS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Banda Polyphony

The Banda, who number about 400,000, form the largest ethnic group in the Central African Republic. This recording presents the music of two subgroups, the Linda and the Dakpa, who share to a large extent their musical forms although instruments, repertoire and techniques of elaboration may vary. Linda music is represented by an initiation

song, played by an ensemble of 18 horns, carved from the trunk or root of various trees, or from antelope horn, a song for the cult of twins, a lament and other pieces for flute ensembles and voices. Dakpa Music includes a Dance of Initiates using slit-drums, xylophones and jingles, and *Damba lekpa* for *mbaya* ensemble (12 horns, slit-drum and jingles), an example of the degree of organization required by a polyphonic structure resulting from the interlocking of 12 instrumental parts, each based on a single note.

● ***Central African Republic: Banda Polyphony.*** *Musics and Musicians of the World series, UNESCO/Auvidis 1993. Cassette 52 FF, CD 109 FF.*

Publications and periodicals are on sale at the UNESCO Bookshop, or by order from UNESCO Publishing, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, and in Member States through national distributors. Catalogue on request.

THE ETHICS OF GENETICS

The most difficult issue ahead is whether we should do germline gene therapy. In other words, do you want to improve the human race in a positive way ... to remove serious genetic disease from families for example? We are somewhat reluctant to see it begin because we don't know where it will end." American scientist, James Watson, is well placed to understand the implications of his words. Forty years ago, Watson and his British colleague, Francis Crick, discovered the double helix structure of the DNA molecule, which carries our genetic information. The two Nobel laureates explained how genetic material is copied and transmitted to offspring, opening up the science of molecular genetics.

JAMES WATSON, AGAINST LAWS CONTROLLING EXPERIMENTS (Photo UNESCO/F. Charoffi).

Watson, 65, and Crick, 77, were among 300 luminaries, including 12 other Nobel Prize winners, who met at UNESCO from April 21-23 to celebrate the 40th birthday of the discovery. They reviewed the achievements, looked at future directions, and raised the troubling issue of bioethics. *"What is the use of genetic testing?"* asked Noëlle Lenoir, chairwoman of a scientific and technical group advising UNESCO on the creation of an International Consultative Committee on Bioethics. *"Who shall have access to information from tests? Should society enforce tests?"*

"I think some laws will be necessary to ensure privacy of genetic information." Watson told journalists covering the event. *"Right now an insurance company in the US can check your blood for cholesterol and then take a look at your genome. People have to be assured that that's illegal. As far as laws saying what sort of experiments we should do, I would be on the whole against that. It slows research and the utilization of discoveries."*

The scientist believes the public is not yet ready to deal with the issues. *"We're talking about genetic diseases and changes in genetic material when the general public does not really accept the fact of Darwinian evolution. But genetic diagnosis is coming - conceivably over the next 100 years - because so many people will benefit from it."*

Apart from eradicating genetic disease, he says, genetic diagnosis could also be used to immunise humans against viruses, as tobacco can be made resistant to the mosaic virus. *"If ever we were faced with something that threatened our existence - if AIDS was 100 times more infectious for example - should we not have a 'bag of' genetic tricks' that could prevent our extinction?"*

Sue WILLIAMS

FOR BOSNIA'S CHILDREN

The mood was party like, star-watchers and music lovers abounded and the television cameras wheeled and flickered capturing and transmitting the event into millions of homes. However, no-one present was unaware of the underlying gravity of the occasion, and that those for whom this gala-concert had been organized, were far from the glitz - witnesses and victims of human folly.

The event was the final contest for this year's Mozart Prize for young musicians, and a "Five Continents" supper to raise funds for the refugee children of war-torn Bosnia. The programme was televised live by Channels Five in Italy and Spain, with Italian presenter, Mike Bongiorno as host.

The seven young finalists for the Mozart Prize ranged from eight to 13 years old and were each accompanied by "sponsors" including opera singer and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadress, Barbara Hendricks, actress Marisa Berenson, and Italian pop star, Zucchero Fornaciari. An international jury selected 12 year old Russian pianist Aleksander Kobrin for the $20,000 first prize. Aleksander was also the spectators choice, if applause is any measure of success. The young, already polished professional, showed not only outstanding technical skill in his interpretation of a work by Liszt, but a sensitivity that captivated the 1,000 strong audience.

Second prize was shared by 12 year olds, French violonist Jeanne de Ricaud and Romanian pianist, Varga Matei, while third prize went to 13 year old Czech pianist, Libor Novacek. The concert was followed by a supper of dishes from the five continents, prepared by members of the UNESCO family with the help of several private firms.

FROM L. TO R. ALEKSANDER, VARGA AND JEANNE (Photo UNESCO/Michel Claude).

"A resounding success" was the general comment at the end of the evening, which raised some 70,000 FF.

The gala capped the second World Day for Cultural Development, which, earlier had seen a round table organized by UNESCO on Culture on the Eve of the 21st Century. Participants included French activist for humanitarian aid, Bernard Kouchner, Chinese author Han Suyin, painters Hans Erni from Switzerland and S.H. Raza from India, former President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, Barbara Hendricks, Marisa Berenson and Bianca Jagger.

They *"vigourously condemned racism where it is found"* and invited Director General, Federico Mayor, *"to convene...an international symposium on the right to take action in an emergency, with the aim of creating an international warning system"*.

S. W.

● **"IT'S NOT A PRIZE OR REWARD THAT I AM RECEIVING TODAY,** simply...a passport, so that, having rolled up my sleeves, the work I will do through UNESCO may be useful," declared French musician, Jean Michel Jarre after being named Goodwill Ambassador for the Organization on May 24. His task: to proclaim the message of tolerance around the world, which he will do through his tours this year and next, culminating in a special concert in Paris in 1995.
Born into a family of musicians in 1948, Jean Michel Jarre has won world renown for his mainly electronic music and gigantic gala-concerts, blending music, light and laser shows that have attracted up to two and a half million spectators.

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MEDIA: FREEDOM IN FOCUS

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers." *(Article 19 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights). This right is increasingly recognized, but often not enacted, or blocked by so many obstacles that it cannot function (p12-13). UNESCO, on the invitation of its Member States, has undertaken the task of* "promoting the free flow of information at international and national levels... and better balanced dissemination of information without any obstacle to freedom of expression". *Taking the global situation into account (see below), and despite the paradoxal hesitation of donors (p.10), the Organization has launched activities promoting media independence at an ethical and legislative level (p.11), through better training for journalists (p.9), by supporting a vast operation to bolster Africa's new newspapers (pp.15-16) and offering emergency help to the media of ex-Yugoslavia (p.14).

A drop by the secretariat of the International Federation of Journalists. The "electronic mailbag" of IFEX (International Freedom of Expression Exchange - see box) has just been emptied. The harvest of just one day doesn't look very promising. A newspaper closed in Romania, another one in Lebanon, an issue of a paper seized in Turkey, death threats against a journalist in Venezuela, new restrictions on the press in China, two journalists arrested in Cameroon, an appeal for help from a radio station in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Some good news though: a new Jordanian law gives journalists better protection against prosecution.

Is press freedom in the world on the march or under greater attack? The answer is probably both, the one because the other. However it is clear that there is a new assertiveness by journalists, editors and publishers, in many countries and cultures on all continents. There is a new awareness that freedom of expression and press freedom are not only essential political rights, but also a part of the dignity which is the birthright of all human beings, their right to think and speak freely. Those freedoms are also a condition for sound and sustainable economic development. The economic and environmental debacle in the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe proved it once again. If there is no control by the public, by an independent and vigilant free press and media, disastrous economic and environmental policies, corruption and waste of national resources continue unchecked.

Demands to protect the rights of press and media workers, the right to do their job without threats to their freedom, personal integrity and life, are the concern of all. For society has the right to be informed and to know. Without these rights, freedom of opinion becomes only the freedom to hold and express badly informed opinions.

Many governments still do not recognise this, and exercise total or a very large control on their media. In most Middle East countries for instance, press freedom remains little more than an aspiration.

AIR WAVES AND BORDERS

Nevertheless, the explosion in communications technologies, the arrival of faxes and modems, makes it more and more difficult to seal borders against information. This may not directly effect the national situation of press freedom, but it does make it more difficult for governments to isolate citizens from external information and censor human rights violations, including freedom of expression.

The availability of international radio broadcasting stations, such as the BBC World Service, is already well known. Now, satellite dishes are becoming more accessible, and will make it even more difficult for governments to control the air waves. An example of this is the London based Middle East Broadcasting Centre, the first privately owned Pan-Arab television station, which reaches an estimated 14 million people in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The new assertiveness in many countries, of publishers, editors and journalists is another encouraging sign. But it also provokes a backlash, from governments who prefer to keep the lid on their actions and crimes, from powerful economic interests and from organised crime. The murders of journalists and the bomb attacks against the media by the drug-traffickers in Colombia, and so called government-linked "death squads" in other Latin American countries, have been well documented.

In Nigeria, where a trend to economic and political liberalisation was accompanied by a liberalisation in the press, the government is turning back the clock. According to a May 6, 1993, Kaduna Radio broadcast, the Government of Nigeria passed a Treasonable Offenses Decree earlier that month which states that anyone who is judged to have disrupted *"the general fabric of the country or any part of it"* in speech or writing is liable to be sentenced to death.

Violence and intimidation are not the only threat to press freedom. Real freedom demands access to technical facilities. Too many governments retain a large measure of influence through their control of the airwaves, their control of printing and distribution facilities, and their use of import

and export licences to *"discourage"* the business world from placing advertisements in *"unfriendly"* newspapers and magazines.

Real press freedom demands that journalists' material, moral and legal status are protected from undue influence from whatever source.

A free media is certainly a condition for a sound and sustainable economic development, but the opposite is also true. One of the main obstacles to media development is the lack of infrastructure, and the absence of a market of readers and advertisers. This means that many independent papers and broadcasting facilities work with a very small budget and are extremely vulnerable to all kinds of pressure.

Journalists in developing countries are often very poorly paid and are obliged to have a second job to support themselves and their families. This, of course, takes away from the quality and integrity of their journalistic work. Finding solutions for this chicken-and-egg problem of the link between press freedom and economic development remains a major challenge.

NATIONALISM

At the end of the 20th century, another growing threat in the "First" as well as the "Third" World, is the resurgence of nationalism, which is often, but not always, linked to religion. Journalists who dare to report freely, or criticize their political leaders, are often branded as traitors to their nation, to their culture, or their religion. In a situation of civil strife or war, this pressure is very difficult to withstand. Journalists feel torn between their loyalty to their people and their duty to report honestly and freely. The fundamental duty, of course, is to choose the truth, not to take sides.

Very worrying in this context is the perversion of the word "culture". Those who advocate change and reform and freedom, are quickly branded as traitors. But culture has always meant change and progress, never paralysis. Cultures have always developed in exchange and friction with each other. It is never a betrayal to one's own culture to learn from others.

And culture has never meant the uncritical acceptance of existing wisdom. One of the most important documents of our time is the Declaration of Human Rights. It is the recognition, by the world community, of the universality of human rights; the equality of all. The rights enshrined in that document were, at the beginning, advocated by individuals or small minorities, who were often ridiculed, persecuted, tortured and killed by political or religious powers. But their ideas won the day.

I have never understood why some people could pretend that freedom of expression, freedom of the press, democratic freedoms is alien to some cultures. To imply that some peoples, some nations are, by nature or culture, unfit for freedom, and that the truth should be hidden from them because they wouldn't know what to do with it strikes me as a sentiment filled with prejudice and sinister political intent. And which "cultural values", which Divine Revelation, can justify discrimination, oppression, torture and arbitrary killings?

MILESTONES

So it is very fitting that the UNESCO, plays such an important role in the promotion of freedom of expression and press freedom, which are part of a culture in the large and noble sense of the word. The Declaration of Windhoek (May 3, 1991) and the Declaration of Alma Ata (October 9, 1992), adopted at conferences organised by UNESCO and UNDP, and cosponsored by the International Federations of Journalists and of Newspaper Publishers (IFJ and FIEJ), are truly milestones in the struggle for free, independent and pluralistic print and broadcast media in all regions.

To go on spreading this "culture of press freedom" is one of the very important things UNESCO can and should do.

It has been a very important step that UNESCO, which, as all UN organisations, is an "organisation of governments", has come out so strongly on the importance of strong, independent media. While a free market is not enough to guarantee the quality of the media, it is certainly a condition for that quality. As has been said long ago: *"A free press can be either good or bad, a controlled press can only be bad"*.

On the practical side, UNESCO can do much to help. One of the main fields is helping independent journalists, editors and publishers with access to training and necessary technical infrastructure. The UNESCO partnership with the IFJ and FIEJ, to do just that, is a practical way of realising the objectives of the Windhoek and Alma Ata declarations, at a time when journalists and independent media organisations are crying out for practical and concrete activity.

Under Director-General, Federico Mayor, UNESCO has shown its commitment to freedom of expression and press freedom by declaring May 3, International Press Freedom Day. This is a welcome yearly reminder that freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press, are part and parcel of the essential human rights, as is stated in Article 19 of the Human Rights Declaration.

Two centuries ago, the Irish statesman John Philpot Curran wrote: *"The condition upon which God has given liberty to man is eternal vigilance"*. That remains as valid as ever. A free press and free media, which can ask the right questions so that the right answers can be found, are part of that human privilege of liberty and of the duty of eternal vigilance.

Mia DOORNAERT
Former President of the International Federation of Journalists (1986 - 1992), Diplomatic Editor of *De Standaard*.

INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION EXCHANGE

Close to 1,500 attacks on freedom of expression are reported each year, from censorship to terrorism. In recent years, more than 60 journalists and writers have been killed annually. With UNESCO's support, a system of alert was set up last September to collect and disseminate information on attacks against press freedom. Based in Toronto, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) is operated by the Canadian Committee to protect Journalists. It works closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International. Recent actions include a campaign for press freedom in Turkey, where 11 journalists were killed last year. IFEX is now focussing its attention on China.

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HOW THE OTHER SIDE LIVES ...

Lithuanian journalist, Edvinas Butkus, recalls his visit to Radio Netherlands International, on a UNESCO funded scholarship.

"We Beatrix, by the Grace of God Queen of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau ... Greetings to all those who shall see or hear these presents!"

Such is the traditional beginning of the Netherlands Media Act, which is the main document for all mass media in that country. And it is the tradition of the media, as a fiercely independent voice in the Netherlands that is the most striking aspect for someone looking in from the outside. Especially someone like me, a journalist coming from Lithuania, a country where the media is only just starting to find its feet after so many decades of control and repression.

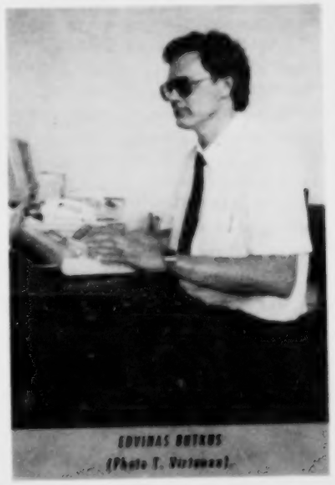
During my two week stay at Radio Netherlands International, which was financed by UNESCO, I came to understand that freedom of the press there is virtually a religion that no-one would dare question. The Dutch Government does not have the right to influence radio and television programmes - although in the case of a national emergency, broadcasts can be interrupted for important announcements made directly from the Hague. However, the people to whom I spoke during my stay, could not come up with any examples of government interference with their work or the functioning of the press.

SOLIDARITY

The closest thing to "interference" that I could find was more case a of solidarity between colleagues and an example of the sacred place reserved for the Royal family in Dutch society: a journalist had interviewed Princess Margaret on the occasion of her 25th wedding anniversary and was unsatisfied with the result. The programme director felt it was his patriotic duty *"to put some make-up"* on the interview. But, it was explained to me, this was exceptional!

What a contrast with the situation in my own country, even if things are changing. Only last April, for example, the Lithuanian government decided to close down the country's new, and only, independent television station in Vilnius. The station was a joint venture involving the government and Lithuanian communities in the United States and Canada. A government commission justified the move by the fact that the former Prime Minister, Gediminas Vagnorius, violated the law when he passed a resolution allowing the creation of the station. Vagnorius was also reproached for giving a considerable amount of money to the project at a time when the state radio and television stations, which were badly damaged during the occupation of Soviet soldiers in January 1991, were in dire financial straits.

The case is not yet closed, but it serves as a fitting contrast with my experience in the Netherlands, as does the structure the new board of Lithuanian radio and television, which is made up of representatives



EDVINAS BUTKUS (Photo T. Vietmeyer)

of party factions rather than media professionals.

Another striking feature in Holland is the thorough training given to journalists which includes intensive studies and an accumulation of practical skills. I was amazed to discover that the students must learn to work on equipment that is not only new, but which has not even reached radio and television studios! Thus, upon graduation, they are always up to date with the latest technology. It's an expensive principle, but faithfully applied. I have never worked on such equipment before...we are light years away from such technology in Lithuania!

Since returning to Vilnius, I have worked for the reform of the media here - to try to make public broadcasting more modern, democratic and stable. I have helped establish the Baltic News Service (BNS), an independent news agency that provides information to press, radio and television stations. We are in direct competition with the state-run agency, and enjoy much more freedom. This is my first experience in private enterprise, and I think it is probably the best contribution I can make towards the development of a free media here.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Along with five others, I have also prepared a draft law for radio and television, covering such areas as the rights and responsibilities of journalists and how radio and television should be governed. But despite the government's expressed concern to develop the media, this draft has not yet been presented to the parliament.

Meanwhile national radio and TV, which did so much for national rebirth and liberation, is under permanent attack. At the same time, there have been changes - such as the birth of the BNS, and an attempt by journalists to speak out. In one recent case, for example, the daily newspaper, Republika, printed several secret documents concerning a problem with the printing of Lithuania's new bank notes. We, in the media, held our breath, expecting the authorities to come down hard on the newspaper which dared to cross into the unknown territory of investigative journalism. That was back in April, and so far the expected repercussions have not occurred. Much remains to be done though. I would like, for instance, to see the law on radio and television, that my colleagues and I have based on the examples of the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and the Council of Europe, passed. Journalists also need much better training and equipment, as my trip to RNI made so acutely clear. We also need to concentrate on providing information, rather than the opinions and commentaries that have dominated our media for so long.

Continued encouragement and support from the international community, such as I received during my visit to the Netherlands, will help us go a long way towards meeting these goals. ■

CONVINCING UNCLE SCROOGE

Conditions have never been so favourable for the growth of a free media in developing countries, but financiers remain hesitant.

It is difficult to measure the scale of international co-operation in the field of communication. Neither the World Bank, UNDP nor OECD have statistics on the subject.

The most reliable estimates come from UNESCO and were published in 1989 in the excellent "World Communication Report", based on statistics dating from 1985-1986. Despite the age of the report, it still provides a useful indication of the general structure, and there is no reason to believe that this has greatly changed.

The first surprising fact is that in 1985, the developing countries bought communication goods and services to the value of $25,000 million from the industrialized countries! A second even more surprising fact is that technical assistance alone amounted to $600 million, but most of it ($380 million) was spent on the provision of infrastructure by industry. Of the remaining $220 million, $160 million went on bilateral aid and $60 million on multilateral aid.

This shows that, even where technical assistance is concerned, communication is dominated by the suppliers of equipment. Clearly, private technical assistance is essential for transfers of technology, but it needs to be supplemented by and channelled through public development aid, both bilateral and multilateral, which sees things in a broader perspective and is not so tied to particular interests.

With regard to bilateral aid, in 1985-1986 only five countries devoted more than 2 per cent of their public development aid to communication. These were Japan, 5.5 per cent; Norway, 3.5 per cent; Italy, 3.3 per cent; Denmark, 3.1 per cent, and France, 2.5 per cent. they were followed by Germany, 1.8 per cent; Canada, 1.6 per cent; Sweden, 1.2 per cent; the Netherlands, 1.1 per cent; Switzerland, 0.5 per cent, and the United States of America, 0.005 per cent. Even without recent figures, it is immediately apparent that bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this field is insufficient for the task in hand.

It is paradoxical that the rich countries, almost obsessive in the importance they attach to communication at home, attach such little significance to it in their public development aid! Why this inconsistency?

The argument over the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO), which raged at UNESCO and in the United Nations system for more than 10 years, is no doubt largely responsible. There was a tendency to view communication with suspicion where bilateral co-operation was concerned. And in the case of multilateral co-operation, UNESCO, as the main specialized agency in this field, has taken knocks that have considerably reduced its operational capacity.

HOW TO KEEP THE NEW MEDIA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HEALTHY AND GROWING? (Photo UNESCO/ C. Arnaldo).

However, NWICO has been dead and buried since 1989. It has been replaced by a new strategy which stresses the strengthening of endogenous communication capacities.

Unfortunately, this change of direction has coincided with the economic crisis, and present circumstances are not really favourable to new projects.

The emergence of a pluralist press and the processes of democratization initiated in many developing countries have, however, captured the attention of financial backers with democratic ideals.

THE TIME FACTOR

The problem, though, was how to help this press without depriving it of its independence. It was a new situation and time for thought was needed. But government departments work slowly and the project cycle is a long one. By the time that external help finally becomes available, many of the new titles will have disappeared.

However, circumstances have never been so favourable for the expansion of the media in the developing countries:

- there is an almost universal and unstoppable trend towards pluralism;
- States are more amenable to the principle of decentralization, which makes it easier to develop more interactive forms of communication;
- major development agencies such as the World Bank are now laying stress on participation, in which the media can play a particularly effective role;
- in the developing countries, experienced professionals are able to take advantage of the new opportunities for free expression that are opening up to them.

Communication professionals may, however, have a communication problem that they need to overcome in order to obtain public development funds. They rarely have to deal with journalists in the funding agencies, but more with economists, agronomists or education specialists. They have to demonstrate to them what they, as professionals, regard as self-evident: that communication in the developing countries (where people still know how to communicate with one another) is a real tool for development; that there can be no democracy without press freedom; that there can be no development without participation; and that the media, if properly used, is the best way of ensuring participation.

Bernard FELLER
INTERMEDIA Consultants SA
Berne

ALL ARTICLES ARE FREE OF COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS SEE P. 3

BUILDING A FREE PRESS IN KAZAKHSTAN

The obstacles to a healthy, independent media are not always repressive governments. Economics also plays a major part.

Three experts - a Canadian, a German and a Russian - scored a "first" for UNESCO at the beginning of this year with a three-week visit to Kazakhstan to help a country moving towards democracy lay the groundwork for press freedom.

Kazakhstan had asked for help after UNESCO offered its services to the region at a seminar in Alma Ata last autumn on press freedom in Central Asia. Its government wanted to reform the legislation inherited from the Soviet era. But why the need for foreign experts?

THE STUDIO OF "RADIO MAXIMUM", KAZAKHSTAN'S PIONEERING PRIVATE RADIO STATION (Photo Martin Hadlow).

"You'd only ask that question if you hadn't been there," smiled Pierre Juneau, a former head of Radio Canada and of the Canadian media watchdog body.

"Virtually none of the old Soviet republics has the capacity to adjust to the new circumstances in which the media finds itself," said Vladimir Gai, a member of Russia's UNESCO Commission.

The situation is even tougher for the remoter former Soviet republics, adds Rainer Freiherr von Schilling, editor of the German daily Mannheimer Morgen. All they have ever known is tsars, khans and other forms of dictatorship. However, democracy and independence go hand in hand and they now want to set up their own legal systems. UNESCO seems to them an impartial international reference, that according to Vladimir Gai, has an *"extremely positive image"* in the countries of Eastern Europe.

The mission thus arrived in a country in the midst of a vast transformation.

Last February, Kazakhstan's parliament ratified a new constitution establishing priority for human rights and freedoms and proclaiming freedom of expression (and) information.

According to the independent Kazakh weekly Caravan Business Week, the country now has as many as 475 daily papers. *"Yet only two years ago, every typewriter and photocopier in the land was registered with the KGB,"* notes Mr. Juneau. All the journalists the UNESCO mission talked to said press freedom had made great strides, although certain among them were extremely critical of the government.

While he declined to give details of the mission's recommendations, which have not yet been submitted to the Kazakh authorities, Mr. Juneau said economics was *"the main obstacle to press freedom."*

The infrastructure in Kazakhstan is poor. The only big printing plant belongs to the state, which can thus have a say in what is printed. Reliable sources of information are not always available. Foreign newspapers arrive in Alma Ata, for example, three or four days late and only a few local newspaper offices can afford even a copy of the International Herald Tribune, which costs $2 - a week's salary.

Advertising revenue is still meagre. *"A free press is the child of a free economy,"* said one of the journalists the mission met. But most newspapers live off state handouts - a whole mentality which has to change. *"Many papers recoil from freedom,"* says Reiner von Schilling. *"It's not the government that shackles them. It's just easier to beg for money."* Only a few of the hundreds of generally over-staffed publications will survive the law of the free market. *"We saw newspapers without even a camera or with just a single ancient typewriter but which hired 50 people, many of whom had to pretend to be working,"* said Mr. Gai.

ETHNIC MINORITIES

Some papers are published in the Kazakh language (the Soviets imposed Russian on the country), or in Uighur, German or Korean. These also depend on subsidies, but give a voice to ethnic minorities Kazakhstan wants to safeguard and, in so doing, avoid the bloody inter-ethnic strife that has riven much of Central Asia. Press freedom and subsidies will probably have to be combined for at least an initial period, according to the three experts. One way they suggest would be to set up an independent authority to distribute the subsidies on a fair and open basis. In this difficult period, viable economic conditions also have to be created by reducing taxes and costs to a minimum.

Overall, the space the press needs has yet to be marked out and developed. Any new law must also ensure journalists access to information, especially from official sources. Some kind of independent press council could be set up to watch over press ethics, as in a number of democratic countries *(1)*.

Because of its importance for social and cultural development, radio and television need special attention and perhaps separate legislation. Kazakhstan could follow the example of Western countries which have set up independent watchdog authorities.

The mission had great difficulty explaining the concept of *"public service"* in this section of the media, said Mr Gai. For most people, *"public"* meant *"government"* and thus official propaganda. This difficulty over words symbolised a whole problem in itself.

Nicolas MICHAUX

(1) See the comparative study of Europe, North America and Australia just published for UNESCO: "Press Law and Practice"/Article XIX, UNESCO.

THE SPREAD OF FREE INFORMATION

The ways of muzzling the press are many and varied, ranging from censorship to imprisonment or even the execution of journalists and, more subtle, economic pressures that limit independence.

The above map is based on a freedom of information index for more than 150 countries, established early this year by the French-based NGO, Reporters sans frontières. This index "grades" countries on a six-point scale, ranging from a "*very grave*" to a "*correct*" situation.

Using the usual UN system of geographic division, we have based sub-regional averages for freedom of information, calculated on the index ratings for each country and using a scale of one (pink) to 10 (dark red).

Available data for the Pacific and Caribbean were not sufficiently significant to be included.

It should be noted that, in the words of Reporters sans frontières, national data "*only illustrates trends*", and that the sub-regional averages can cover up marked variations between each country.

Despite the progress of the past decade, press freedom is not a universally acquired right. The map below presents the state of affairs according to an investigation by Reporters Sans Frontières.

TO THE RESCUE

In ex-Yugoslavia, journalists have become prime targets, and their newspapers, radio and television stations crippled...

The situation of the press throughout what was once Yugoslavia *"has become desperate"* says Lee Woodyear, the human rights specialist of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Thirty three journalists have been killed there since June 1991, according to the IFJ, the world's leading journalist's organization which his close ties with UNESCO.

"Journalists on a wide scale and in every republic and territory of ex-Yugoslavia are coming under more and more pressure. In Croatia, independent journalists do not believe that they have an independent media outlet in the republic. In Kosovo, the Albanian population of some two million has no information or news outlet. In Montenegro, journalists criticising the local government or the policies of the ruling parties vs. Belgrade receive more direct and indirect harassment. In Macedonia, the independent press has few resources. And in Serbia, it is gradually being eliminated," he says.

Mirsada Saki-Hatibovic, a reporter with Bosnia-Herzegovina Radio and TV, says she is *"number three on a journalists' death list drawn up by Serbian forces"*. Last December, she fled to Paris, where she described the terrible conditions at the station.

The building was bombed night and day and the journalists were broadcasting from the basement, she said. *"There are few phones, no heating, very little food, no water, no mains electricity, or fuel for the generator. Mobile phones have been seized by the Serbs and there are no flak jackets, vehicles or usable video cameras. Staff are forced to film with very heavy old-fashioned cameras which make moving around even more dangerous."*

Some 1,800 of the 2,500 employees, including all senior staff, have left. Much of the equipment has been taken by Serbs. *"Now there is a staff of 47 Muslims, 35 Serbs, 25 Croats and 30 others, but they all call themselves Bosnians"* she says. *"At the top of the Serbs' death list is Goran Milic, a Serb very popular on Belgrade television who has joined the Bosnian station because he believes in freedom of information."*

THE "OFFICES" OF THE SARAJEVO DAILY, OSLOBODENJE (Photo SYGMA/Patrick Chauvel).

Reporters are no longer free. When they are not facing soldiers' bullets, they must wrestle with official pressure and ethnic hatreds. War-ravaged Bosnia is no exception. The journalists there are prime targets, and everywhere, the press is being muzzled, either by conflict, the authorities or economic difficulties.

"We have seen terrible situations in the past" said Nick Filmore, head of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, *"but (the war in the former Yugoslavia) is by the far the worst we've ever seen."*

The television only manages to broadcast for 12 hours a day. Reporters get their information from ham radio operators who break through the information blackout in beseiged areas. The rare cassettes it still has have to be constantly wiped and reused, *"which erases all the visual record of this conflict"* says Klaus Schmitter, the UNESCO official in charge of helping the press in ex-Yugoslavia. Oslobodenje, the daily which sells about 10,000 copies in Sarajevo, is sometimes reduced to just a leaflet when paper is short.

In the face of all this, UNESCO has launched its first-ever operation to urgently help the press. Working with the IFJ and the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, its various actions might seem rather scattered, but they aim to meet most urgent needs first.

"SOS MEDIA"

A round table on the independent press, for example, held in Llubljana last February, established the coordination Centre for Independent Media in the Balkans. It began operating in April, monitoring attacks on press freedom, defending rights and promoting journalistic exchanges in the region. An appeal has been launchod for support for the threatened Bosnian media and European and Canadian TV stations have agreed to show a film-clip, "SOS-Media", to rouse public opinion and raise money. Finnish television donated some children's programmes. *"The children of Sarajevo haven't been outside their homes for the past year,"* says Schmitter. *"The local TV has education programmes but it's had to repeat them over and over again."* German stations have given four cameras and flak-jackets have been offered by a professional association.

The aid still has to get to Sarajevo however. UNESCO has already managed to get equipment to the radio and television and to Oslobodenje, along with some newsprint. Working with the Fondation de France humanitarian organization, it has also given a grant to produce a newspaper for Bosnian refugees.

UNESCO is also helping the press in other republics. A newspaper in Macedonia is getting help with training. The Organization has told the Croatians of its concern for the free press in that country. And it has suggested to the United Nations that communication should be included on the list of exemptions to the embargo to help keep what remains of the independent press in Belgade, alive.

Nicolas MICHAUX

AN UNTRODDEN PATH

UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication has launched a $6 million scheme to help Africa's independent press.

Alpha Oumar Konaré became Mali's first democratically-elected president on April 27 last year. Three years earlier, as a former culture minister who strongly defended national heritage and encouraged cooperatives, he had founded the country's first private community newspaper, *Les Echos*. By its second year, in 1990, the weekly had a circulation of some 25,000.

The association was significant in the history of black Africa's non-governmental press. According to Radio France International, the new African press *"has been in the vanguard of the fight against several authoritarian regimes"*. In Mali, the radio said, Moussa Traore's regime *"was slow to grasp the rebellious role of the independent press. Censorship imposed in December 1990 had no effect. Indeed, the part played by four newspapers in the regime's overthrow earned them the title of 'flower of Malian democracy'."*

Until five years ago, only Senegal in French-speaking Africa had liberal press laws. But from 1987, independent newspapers began springing up in Benin, then a leading Marxist regime in the continent. So the fall of the Berlin Wall may have helped and speeded things up, but the rise of the free written press owes more to the growing influence of news, especially by satellite, from outside the continent than it does to the collapse of communism. The result is that in several countries, government-controlled papers have lost as many as two-thirds of their readers while privately-owned newspapers are winning more and more.

PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES

Of the 200 or so new papers, only about 20 are in Anglophone Africa because these countries have always been ahead in matters of press freedom. Under a dozen of the 200 are dailies. A broad range of problems restricts papers to weekly, fortnightly, monthly or simply unpredictable publication dates. They illustrate the many obstacles facing Africa's independent press, such as production costs, sparse advertising revenue, crippling tariffs on imported paper and ink, the high cost of transport, telecommunications and distribution, partly for want of organised networks.

Apart from the religious press - where there is one - no privately-owned paper has its own printing plant. Many must either choose between making use of the government's monopoly of equipment for production and printing, with the danger of on-the-spot censorship, or the higher cost of printing outside the country.

GETTING OUT THE NEWS AT CAPE VERDE'S NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY, SET UP WITH UNESCO/IPDC ASSISTANCE (Photo UNESCO/D. Roger).

Both alternatives raise costs and, worse, keep up the street price in a market with very small purchasing power. It throws into question the whole development and even survival of the independent press.

Only two French-speaking countries, Senegal (1986) and Ivory Coast/Côte d'Ivoire (1991) have so far passed laws to help the written press. Great attention on the other hand is given to the needs of radio and television, by both local bodies and foreign aid organisations.

Another problem is ethics. After being stifled for so long, freedom has also brought excess and licence. Freedom of information and commentary is still too often tied in with baseless rumours and falsehoods, as well as insults and libels against opponents. In this legal limbo, the lack of a code of conduct, a mediator or some other way devised by the profession to inspire respect, or at least defend itself, parliaments can easily pass laws curbing the new freedom and governments can impose arbitrary restrictions.

With this in mind, UNESCO's 1980 International Programme for the Development of Communication last year approved a $6 million scheme to help Africa's independent press. It followed on from a UN and UNESCO-sponsored seminar in the Namibian capital of Windhoek in April-May 1991 which brought together about 60 people from the independent media to identify obstacles to developing the privately-owned press. The scheme is an important turning point. Despite being inter-governmental, the Programme has altered its ground rules so it can help private projects as long as they are presented by professional bodies.

It has many aims. One is to encourage governments and professional organisations to get laws passed guaranteeing freedom of information (legally and in practice) - especially free access to and free circulation of information inside and between countries - along with a code of conduct drafted by journalists themselves.

Another goal is to build economic and financial structures which ensure medium-term self-sufficiency in the communications sector, if possible through private initiatives such as investing in printing and distribution.

Other aims include strengthening solid publications and, in particular, making newspapers financially viable. Monopolies such as distribution, printing and advertising would be abolished or weakened and replaced by freedom to compete, win advertising, get subscriptions and sell papers. Purchase of shares by investors from other economic spheres is to be discussed as a priority.

ALL ARTICLES ARE FREE OF COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS, SEE P. 2

Another goal is for publishers to form themselves into regional and/or sub-regional groupings to buy paper, ink, other materials and spare parts, and perhaps even to print and distribute cooperatively, like the Société d'Edition et de Presse set up in West Africa by Benin's La Gazette du Golfe, Haské (Niger) and Sud Hebdo (Senegal). These three papers share a regional network of correspondents, as well as printing and distribution facilities.

Training would be an absolute priority, first of all in financial management and marketing (publicity and sales). After that would come journalistic training, including ethics. Then technical training, notably in the use and maintenance of equipment, including computers and items for photocomposition, printing and studio graphics.

Other planned assistance includes readership survey training, in view of the lamentable ignorance of public tastes, and group selling of advertising to African and foreign firms. The role - in countries of high illiteracy and small readership - of national languages and of publications aimed mainly at women (currently, it seems, only of interest to Burundi and Rwanda in French-speaking Africa) would also be looked at.

To help it along a path it has never before trodden -aiding privately-owned media, and without interfering with free competition or with media independence - UNESCO has set up a special structure to carry out the scheme. A *"consultative group"* of representatives of professional organisations (The International Federations of Newspaper Publishers, and of Journalists etc), as well as of Africa's advertising and distribution sectors, will strengthen the *"neutrality"* and effectiveness of the aid.

This group and the Programme's administrators will together decide the criteria to qualify for it. Priority qualifications will be the existence of national laws to encourage private ownership of media, the secure legal statusm genuine independence and ;anage;ent skills of the applicant, as well as a market - the minimum requirement for a medium which must live off its income.

The consultative group will also advise on carrying out the scheme's various stages - which will cost about $800,000 each - and keep a close watch on the execution of each one before going on to the next, which will not go ahead until funds are available. Hence the impossibility of satisfying immediately all the requests, from about 30 countries, and the need to set priorities about who gets what kind of aid.

For if no one contests the reality of the need, the financial response comes from outside donors: IPDC projects are funded, on a voluntary basis, by governmental aid agencies and a few private sources.

Claude ONDOBO, Director, IPDC, and Nè MBOMA

TO FIND OUT MORE ...

PRESS LAW AND PRACTICE: A Comparative Study of Press Freedom in European and Other Democracies. This book is intended to serve as a resource for human rights campaigners, press freedom advocates, academics, journalists and lawyers, especially those in Central and Eastern Europe who are engaged in drafting, amending or commenting on constitutional provisions, laws and regulations which affect the functioning of the press. It is also a valuable tool for documenting cases before national (and international) courst as well as the European Cours and Commission of Human Rights. Published for UNESCO by Article 19 (The International Centre Against Censorship), 1993, 307 pp.

WORLD COMMUNICATION REPORT: One of the most comprehensive sources of information available on the subject, this Report is aimed at policy-makers, planners and practitioners. It details recent developments, as well as reference sources and practical contacts. The information was received from 44 specialized contributors, 20 UNESCO National Commissions, and 119 international and regional organizations. UNESCO, 1989, 551 pp.

VIOLENCE AND TERROR IN THE MASS MEDIA. A consolidated report of existing research on policies that guide media depictions of violence and terror, on the content of messages that represent them, and on the consequences of exposure to them. Reports and Papers on Mass Communication No. 102, prepared by George Gerbner, Dean of the Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania (U.S.). UNESCO 1988, 45 pp., extensive bibliography.

THE VIGILANT PRESS: a collection of case - studies. Covering a variety of areas germane to the international debate on freedom of expression and information, this report examines the way questions relating to censorship and self-censorship, and to the media's role in preventing abuses of power, are perceived in different parts of the world. Reports and Papers on Mass Communication, No. 103. UNESCO 1989, 116 pp.

"THE MEDIA - WAYS TO FREEDOM" -A series of articles on media freedom ranging from "the Conscience of the Journalist" (Jean Lacouture, France) to "The Price of a Free Press" (Babacar Touré, Senegal), and "Media Empires: a Necessary Evil?" (Joseph Fitchett, U.S.). The Unesco Courier, September 1990.

"TELE...VISIONS". Explores the power and ambivalence of this "mysterious medium" including what one author sees as the role of TV in transforming representative democracy into "media democracy". Articles range from a report on U.S. giant CNN through "Reality Shows" which attract large audiences by putting ordinary people in the spotlight, to the "cartoon boom". The UNESCO Courier, October 1992.

MANY VOICES, ONE WORLD. The historical, political and sociological perspectives of communication, including such issues as government controls, censorship, concentration of media ownership, press freedom and responsibility, protection of journalists, etc. The so-called "MacBride Report," a UNESCO classic, first published in 1980, reprinted in 1988.

THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION and the **FINAL REPORT** of the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press (Windhoek, Namibia, April 29 - May 3, 1991) UN/UNESCO 1991, 60 pp. **THE ALMA-ATA DECLARATION** and the **FINAL REPORT** of the Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media in Asia (Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, October 1992). Available from the Sector of Communication, Information and Informatics.

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THE SATASAI, the best-known work by 17th century Indian poet **BIHARI**, published by **PENGUIN** Books, has been accepted in the **UNESCO** Collection of **REPRESENTATIVE WORKS.** Bihari was court poet to Jayasingha, the ruler of Amber (near Jaipur) in Rajasthan.

The main theme running through some 700 couplets of the *Satasai* (meaning seven hundred) is that of love in all its various aspects - ranging from the carnal to the sublime. Often compared with the *Kamasutra*, Bihari's poems detail the courtship rituals, sexual mores, and the exquisite beauty of the women of the times. A Penguin Classic, the *Satasai*, translated from the Hindi by K.P. Bahadur, is an excellent introduction to one of the great stylists of classical Indian poetry.

▼

MARKETING INFORMATION was the subject of meeting that attracted 100 participants in Beijing from April 25-28. The gathering was organized by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information in China and financed by UNESCO. The participants examined marketing principles and practices which have taken on a new importance for information systems in China's blossoming market economy.

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"TERRA DESERTA" IN EASTERN EUROPE

The former Iron Curtain has become a veritable conveyer belt for cultural treasures smuggled out to rich Western markets.

Over the past three years in Romania, some 60 museums have been attacked and robbed and some 11,000 artefacts lost. Russian authorities have established the existence of 40 criminal gangs involved in the illicit trafficking of the country's art treasures. Last year in the Ukraine, thieves killed two curators during a raid on a museum in Lvov, while an estimated 20,000 artefacts left the Czech Republic illegally during 1992 and more than 1,141 churches were robbed in Poland - an increase of more than 100 percent since the early 80s.

Since the fall of the communist regimes, the frontiers of Eastern Europe have been transformed from an "Iron Curtain" into a conveyer belt, carrying the region's cultural heritage to the rich markets in the West. *"If we don't act quickly we will have a 'terra deserta' in the middle of Europe"* Romanian historian, Ioan Opris, told a regional seminar on illicit traffic, held in Hungary in March.

Organized by UNESCO, the meeting was the first of a series of regional seminars on illicit traffic and brought together museum authorities, art historians, customs officials and legal experts from 11 Eastern European countries, along with INTERPOL and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

27 MILLION ICONS

Changing borders, sparse controls, a lack of security and the means to provide it, and populations struggling against poverty, have all contributed to a situation that all seminar participants agreed was critical. *"Aggravating the problem,"* explains UNESCO expert, Lyndel Prott *"is the fact that very few of these countries have ever drawn up an inventory of their cultural wealth. This means that they often don't know for sure what has been taken from where."*

Russian authorities estimate, for example, that some 27 million icons have disappeared from the country over the past 10 years. An increasing number of seizures, despite the leaky borders, and the quantity of icons now available for sale on western markets indicate that more are leaving the country now than ever. Customs officials confiscated more than 5,000 artworks or antiques at the 105 checkpoints on Russia's borders last year - three times the number seized from right around the former Soviet Union's frontiers in 1991, but only an estimated 5 to 10 percent of the pieces that are believed to have left the country.

Art export regulations were tightened last November to staunch the flow, but to little effect as there are any number of ways to smuggle artefacts out. In the same month, 39 icons were confiscated from a U.S consulate employee at Pulkovo. But rare are the customs officers who will break protocol and search foreigners carrying diplomatic passports.

NO BORDER CONTROLS

"Much of the art smuggled out of Russia passes through Poland, bound for Germany" explained the Commissioner for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, Wojciech Kowalski. *"There are no border controls for Russians or Germans coming into Poland, which makes it the ideal meeting point for dealers and their clients."*

"Part of the problem is that under the communist regime, our churches were closed and religious objects were devalued and even thrown away. Few families kept the religious objects that once adorned every home," said art historian Irene Kurolenko from the Ukraine Ministry of Culture. *"It's only now that we are starting to realize their worth. But the churches we are reopening are empty. It's tragic."*

Archaeological sites are another major target, particularly in Bulgaria. Forgotten by the outside world over several decades, these sites are now drawing the attention of treasure hunters everywhere, following several remarkable discoveries including one horde of 200 pieces of Roman silverware. *"There are thousands of potential sites in Bulgaria"* explains Kowalski *"but no controls. And these 'underground archaeologists' who dig at night are better equipped than their official colleagues!*

"At the end of 1991, for example, the entire ruins of a Roman villa, 'Armira', its statues and columns, completely disappeared from its excavation site near the Turkish border. It was eventually found,

loaded into trucks ready for smuggling out of the country, but the authorities didn't know what to do with it. They had no room in any of the country's museums, and no money to ensure its security. They had no choice but to put it back on its original location."

Transporting artefacts by road is easy to organize and smugglers have become increasingly bold. In one incident last year, Romanian customs officials got lucky and nabbed 10 truckloads of more than 1,000 objects bound for Germany, including a load of valuable Beidermeyer furniture (developed in the early 19th century from the Empire and Directoire styles, and particularly popular in Germany, Austria, northern Italy and Scandinavia).

In 1986, the Eastern Bloc countries signed the Plodic agreement for cooperation on the issue of illicit traffic. However, the agreement was never activated and most of the participants at the Hungary meeting had never heard of it. *"Cooperation is only just starting between the countries of Eastern Europe,"* says Ms. Kurolenko. *"Our independence, after all, is only one and a half years old."*

Neither were many of the delegates aware of the various international mechanisms for controlling trafficking, such as UNESCO's international convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, or INTERPOL.

Another dilemma the delegates said they were faced with, was the issue of privatization of cultural property. What should be done with property seized under the communist regimes? Should it be given back to the previous owners who would be free to dispose of it as they wished? *"The concept of cultural heritage is still being worked out in most of Eastern Europe,"* says Lyndel Prott. Thus the value of many artefacts is not understood, and family heirlooms that fetch a fortune in the West, are cashed in to pay for bread.

The seminar studied specific means of increasing regional cooperation, improving museum security, drawing up legislation to protect moveable cultural property and preparing inventories. The task ahead is long and painstaking. In Slovakia, for example, an inventory is being prepared of all moveable property in churches. In three months only 150 churches in one region alone have been accounted for.

The participating countries have all asked UNESCO and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) for help to get the ball rolling. *"The delegates were particularly pleased to realize that they were not alone with this problem"*, said Ms Prott. *"The seminar allowed them to make solid contacts withother countries in the region and the international bodies working in this area."*

The Art Loss Register in London, for example, has offered its services, and will put important stolen items on its list free of charge, until the countries of Eastern Europe get themselves better organized to check the wholesale plunder of their cultural heritage.

S. W.

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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING was the theme of a workshop at UNESCO's Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe (Venice, Italy) on May 6 and 7.
The meeting was attended by policy-makers and advisers from six countries (Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and the Russian Federation) as well as representatives from UNEP, WMO and the EEC.
Taking as an example the case of policies aimed at climate change mitigation, participants were briefed on computerized decision support systems and given the opportunity to test interactive computers models to assess the global consequences of national policies related, for example, to greenhouse gas emission.

▼

THE ART OF JAPAN came to Paris from April 26 to May 30, with a festival organized by UNESCO and various Japanese and French bodies.
Exhibitions of photography, painting and floral arrangements, presentations of the only Nô theatre piece written by French playwrite, Paul Claudel, "The Woman and Her Shadow", ballet, cinema and music, all gave a curious public a glimpse of Japan's cultural identity.
The high point was a grand tea ceremony, on May 3 in four specially constructed pavilions, designed by Japanese, French, Korean and Italian architects (see below).

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THE COLLEGE OF THE AIR IN MAURITIUS is this year's winner of the $20,000 IPDC/UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication. Created in 1985, the college promotes education of the arts, sciences and culture at primary and secondary level by using distance teaching methods.
Using audiovisual supports such as posters, radio and television, it led a campaign in Creole to raise awareness about stress-related ills such as smoking, alcoholism, hypertension, and obesity.
The winners were decided at last April's meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication. This is the first time that the prize has been awarded to a public health project.

▼

THE RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES was the subject of a seminar that brought together 30 rectors, vice-chancellors and administrators in Alexandria (Egypt), from April 26-30. Their discussions covered privatization, universities and the "spirit of enterprise", the policies of financial institutions in relation to African universities, regionalization and networking.
The seminar was organized under UNESCO's Priority Africa Programme, and follows earlier meetings in Accra in 1991 on the future mission of African unversities, and in Dakar last year on the restructuration of these establishments. The conclusions and recommendations of these seminars will be used to elaborate national management strategies for African universities, for which UNESCO will provide financial support.

UNESCO SOURCES

THE "THOUGHT SUMMIT"

Ibero-American thinkers tell politicians where to go.

People in power are suspicious of intellectuals and rarely seek their opinion on how to run the world. But the rulers of Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula have done just that. At their summit in Madrid last July, they decided to ask UNESCO to organise a gathering of intellectuals to suggest topics for their next meeting, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, this coming July.

About 100 personalities from the american continent and Spain and Portugal met accordingly from April 26 - 29 in Antigua Guatemala. The meeting's ambitious agenda - *"to analyse the role of the Ibero-American community and its contribution to the formation of a new international community"* and *"present a solution to the challenges of the XXIth century"* - probably won the meeting its name of "The Thought Summit," even though the absence of several of the continent's leading intellectuals might have called for a little modesty.

less than the vital minimum, noted Mexican education specialist Pablo Letapi.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor wondered whether *"culture can transform a potentially-explosive mass of contradictions into a civilised society"*. *"We say yes,"* he added and spoke of a future *"common market of knowledge"*. He also stressed the danger of social disruption. *"We must'nt create little islands of modernity in a sea of misery,"* he said.

Gert Rosenthal, of CEPAL (the UN Economic commission for Latin American and the Caribbean), called for *"intellectual aggiornamento"* and hoped the meeting would rise above consideration of *"short-term economic policies"* while for the president of the Interamerican Development Bank, Enrique Iglesias, the big question was *"how to achieve economic efficiency while maintaining the rule of law and social efficiency"*. The ideologies which claimed to have the answer - marxism and economic liberalism - had both failed and humbled intellecutals everywhere.

"THE ORIGINAL THOUGHT AND VALUES OF THE INDIANS ARE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF MORE HUMANE SOCIETIES" *(Photo UNESCO/ A. Jonquières).*

Latin America is at a crossroads. Guatemala's Edelberto Torres Rivas gave a paradoxical picture of a relatively developed continent with *"partial democracies"*, under the weight of past dictatorships' institutional debris, dominant armies, corruption, drug trafficking or *"foreign intervention"*. Also, said the sociologist, *"legitimisation"* of democratic regimes is *"impossible while poverty and extreme social gaps"* exists, with huge sections of the population refused access to education and the political process. Nearly half of the continent's population earns

The gathering suggested that the Ibero-American summit discuss *"new rights"* - to development, a clean environment, peace and humanitarian aid.

The meeting heeded former Uruguayan Minister Hector Gros Epiell by calling for these new rights to be made law through inclusion in future international treaties and national constitutions, with the Inter-american Court of Justice backing them up. But the debate also stressed the difficulty of balancing human rights and natio-

nal sovereignty. Gros Epiell rejected the notion of *"humanitarian intervention,"* reasoning that *"humanitarian action must not be an excuse for political or military intervention."* In the same spirit, the meeting deplored the *"inadmissible desire"* to *"freeze development"* of the Third World for ecological reasons.

42 MILLION ILLITERATES

The participants also underlined *"the key role of education"* in human-oriented development and urged governments to set aside a proportion of their countries' GNP or budget for education. Latin America has more than 42 million illiterates, said Costa Rica's Maria Eugenia Dengo. Twelve million children have no access to schools.

The meeting also called for an emphasis on advanced scientific and technical education and on research. The intellectuals recommended the creation of an Institution on biodiversity in a continent which has the richest biological diversity in the world, and that at least 1% of GDP be spent on science and technology over the next decade, and that countries aimed to have one researcher for every 1000 inhabitants by the beginning of the next century.

These claims, and others - ranging from abolishing taxes on book distribution to setting up science and technology museums - were made against the background of two hopeful assumptions.

First, that there was not only a meeting of minds among so many different countries, but also common interests. The gathering referred in its recommendations to an *"Ibero-American development model."* According to the IDB's Iglesias, Latin America, Spain and Portugal (*"Our Europe"*, said the Latin Americans) are a grouping *"which has managed to express its own identity and find its common roots"* and thus the basis for *"a new international forum."*

More cautiously, Mr Mayor said the Ibero-American summits were not just *"a passing idea"* but *"a project with wide-ranging"* implications. These countries could be an *"influence"* on other parts of the world which had *"lost awareness of their cultural heritage and therefore their sense of direction for the future"*. He mentioned the community-type organisations of past centuries in both Spain and Latin America and the *"popular movements"* of the present which, he said, were *"linked to non-Western values."* He thus echoed the rejection by Mexican historian Miguel Leon Portilla of an *"imposed foreign culture"* in Latin America.

The second assumption, which was forcefully expressed in a message to the meeting from Rigoberta Menchu, who won the Nobel peace prize for her defence of indigenous Indian communities. *"None of the world's serious problems can be solved without the full participation of the Indian peoples, the ethnic minorities and all the other dispossessed,"* she said. *"The original thought and values of the Indians are a special contribution to the building of more humane societies,"* said the woman who describes herself a spokesperson for *"500 years of resistance."*

MINORITY RIGHTS

The meeting called on the government leaders to recognise, including legally, the rights of minorities, especially the Indians. Going further, it urged a return to the basic values of the Indians, notably their community ties and bonds with nature which could humanise today's society. The intellectuals adopted the recommendations of a United Nations conference on the Maya areas, mentioning a proposal by Guatemala's Indians to replant forests. African and Indian roots were considered *"basic elements"* of a continent's awareness of its own diversity, and in search of references after what was called *"the lost decade"*.

The *"preservation and support"* of the Indians, the participants said, *"is not just to protect a heritage but also to help change an inadequate Western model."* The group wants to meet again in 2 years. What will the heads of state say of their numerous observations, *"who will the Latin-american leaders listen to? What do they teach?"* asked the Mexican writer Carlos Monsivais.

One month after this meeting on how to broaden democracy, the Congress was dissolved in Guatemala. Several conference participants protested. A few days later the President was deposed by the Military. These events pointed out, in their way, the violent contrasts of a continent which can boast organisation of such a rich debate but where even the most Basic right to life is not everywhere respected.

Nicolas MICHAUX

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"THE FAMILY" was the theme of this year's photo contest organized by the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU). The jury, which met in Tokyo last April, selected 132 works from the more than 9,000 entries from 133 countries. The top three prizes

"HOPE" BY MIGUEL CRUZ (Photo UNESCO)

went to Chinese photographer, Chen Anding, Denmark's Knud Nielson, and Dominican, Miguel Cruz. The prizes will be awarded in November during the 27th session of UNESCO's General Conference. The winning photos will also make up an exhibition that will travel the world in 1994, the International Year of the Family.

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UNESCO CLUBS AS A SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY was a major theme at a European Conference of UNESCO Clubs held in Kiev (Ukraine) from May 3 to 8. The meeting was attended by some 60 delegates from clubs in 21 European countries.
In addition to the strengthening of democracy, participants, who also included delegates from Latin America and Asia (India, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica and Ecuador), discussed the role of UNESCO Clubs with regard to the World's Cultural Heritage, the environment, and European integration. They also visited the city and environs, notably such cultural treasures as St. Sophia Cathedral and the Kievo-Petchers-kaya Lavra Monastery, both World Heritage sites.

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Managers of six **FRENCH BIOSPHERE RESERVES** met from May 3 to 7 in Ouessant, the largest island in an archipelago forming the Iroise Biosphere Reserve off the western-most tip of France. Also represented were the reserves of Camargue, Vosges, Mont Ventoux, the

FRENCH BIOSPHERE RESERVE MANAGERS IN OUESSANT *(Photo Jean-Michel Walgenwitz)*

Guadeloupe Archipelago and the Valley of Fango in Corsica. Only the managers of the Atoll of Tairo and the Cevennes were missing. France's eight reserves are part of a network of 311 in 80 countries within UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. At the meeting, participants notably examined means for applying the principles of sustainable development, handed down at last year's Earth Summit, to their diverse ecosystems and varied socio-economic conditions.

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THE TRAINING OF ARCHIVISTS, LIBRARIANS and other information specialists in the Arab region was the theme of a meeting in Rabat (Morocco) from May 10-13. A UNESCO survey on changes in the education of information specialists was made available to the experts who agreed that progress had been made. However, they stressed the need for greater regional cooperation in education and research. A project proposal for a regional association of schools of library and information sciences was unanimously accepted and a provisional bureau set up to organize its constituent assembly.

UNESCO SOURCES

MEMORY BY THE MEGABYTE

Priceless Czech manuscripts and incunabula on a CD-ROM.

Members of UNESCO's Executive Board, in session at Headquarters last month, were given a special treat in the form of a PC screen-full of exquisitely illuminated medieval manuscripts and early printed books from the National Library in Prague.

These marvels are contained on a CD-ROM, for Compact Disk Read Only Memory, a type of storage device which contains a vast amount of information in digital form. The Disk looks just like an ordinary CD, in this case with a photo of Prague's National Library on the cover.

Instead of music, however, the user gets 650 Mega Bytes (enough electronic space for an average encyclopedia) of introductory text, bibliographical data and 110 digitized colour images from a tight selection of 149 manuscripts and old printed books. Also included are 10 views of the library building in the 17th century Baroque *Clementinum*, a former Jesuit monastery.

11TH CENTURY ILLUMINATORS

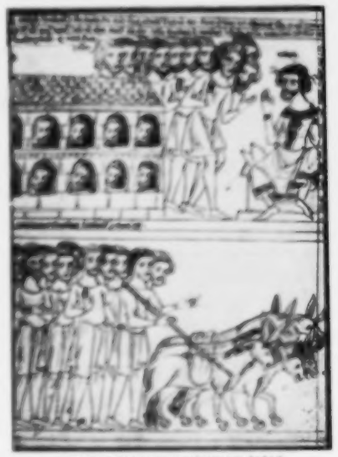
"To get high quality images required 4 to 10 MB of electronic memory space, or the equivalent of about 2000 to 3000 pages of text per image," said Adolf Knoll, Deputy Director of the Library, explaining that the software for the operation, an application of MS Windows, was developed by the new Czech company Albertina icome, the first publisher of information on CD-ROM in the Czech Republic.

The Disk in hand, or rather in a CD-ROM, drive is all you need to call up, for instance, the *Vyshrad Codex*, a masterwork of the Prague school of illuminators of the 11th century and learn that, in June 1086, the first King of Bohemia, Vratislav II, took his coronation oath on this Latin Evangelium, or Book of the Gospels. You can then zoom in on any detail of two images, get a closeup of King Solomon, Isaias revealing his prophecy to Isaiah, or St. Wenceslas enthroned.

Or take another rare treasure, the *Velislav Bible*, a kind of cartoon strip with Latin captions dated around 1340. One of two images selected from among 747 recounts the story of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, while the other shows the Antichrist having scholars beheaded and their books burnt. And just as precious are the early books and documents signed, for example, by the fearless 15th century reformer Jan Hus or the great 17th century humanist John Amos Comenius (Komensky).

The Disk is one of the first pilot projects carried out under UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme, launched in June last year with the aim of safeguarding rare and unique library and archives collections and making them available to scholars and art lovers around the world.

"We are currently undertaking a vast programme of restoring and preserving our collection of over six million books,"



SCENES FROM THE VELISLAV BIBLE *(Photo National Library in Prague)*

said Mr. Knoll, *"notably microfilming the about 9,000 largely medieval manuscripts and 5,500 early printed books (incunabula), including the first Czech book printed in moveable type in a Pilsen atelier in 1468, barely a decade after the Gutenberg Bible (c. 1456)."*

"We had actually planned to use digitized images only later when our means permitted," he said, *"but thanks to UNESCO support (and $25,000), the Disk is a reality - and its only a beginning. We will continue the job as soon as funds are available, hoping, especially, to devote a CD-ROM monograph to one of the masterpieces on this introductory CD."*

Betty WERTHER

CHANGING DIRECTIONS

A new chapter opening for UNESCO?

The obstacles were imposing: a mandate whose limits are imprecise and which is open to contradictory interpretations; fields of competence rooted in ideas, and therefore ideological conflicts - which were all the more devastating when exacerbated by East/West tensions; a financial crisis, afflicting the whole of the UN system, but made even more acute for UNESCO by the departure of two of the biggest contributors, the United States and the United Kingdom.

It would appear that UNESCO is at last overcoming these hurdles, and, at the same time, repositioning itself, in what the Director-General refers to as *"a change of direction"*. That, at least, is the impression left at the end of the 141st session of the Organization's Executive Board, which met in Paris from May 10-28. It was clear that the Director General's propositions for the 1994-95 activities of a "recentred" UNESCO, and the expectations of the international community, were in almost perfect accord, and based on a common analysis of the world situation.

UNESCO must take into account three major changes: the virtually universal agreement on certain key values, a direct result of the fall of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe; the changing nature of North-South cooperation which has moved from the importation of expertise to the South, to its integration as an equal participant into world knowledge exchange networks; and the UN reforms allowing each agency to concentrate on the field in which it has a comparative avantage, made all the more efficient by closer cooperation with the other members of the UN family. From whence the concentration of UNESCO's action around two key phrases: the relaunch of intellectual cooperation, and the reinforcement of its ethical mission.

Of course, relaunching intellectual cooperation is not limited to prestigious meetings and conferences, but requires the establishment of networks, twinnings and the like; the instruments enabling the intellectual and scientific communities to work together. UNESCO's role, will be to encourage the creation and smooth operation of these instruments, when needed, for use by education professionals, scientists and those involved in cultural activities. The ultimate aim of these mechanisms, of course, is a more humane development, the respect of human rights and the emergence of a culture of peace. By so doing, UNESCO will also be fulfilling its ethical mission.

PARTNERSHIPS

To this end, the priorities remain the same: women, Africa, the least developed countries. However, methods of implementation have been clarified. The partnership with civil society must be strengthened, whether it be with non governmental organizations, universities, businesses, trade unions or the media. The UNESCO National Commissions should serve as the lynch pin with these partners, with their role becoming all the more important as the decentralisation of the Organization continues. Accompanying the reinforcement of its intellectual mission, will be a rise in the budget for increased development activities, in the form of technical assistance, to Member States.

Evaluation and flexibility will also be strengthened, to ensure efficiency and adaptability to changing circumstances.

In 1995, UNESCO will celebrate its 50th anniversary - an age at which revolutions are usually past history, but new directions still possible; directions selected with the wisdom and experience of a half a century and the excitement of new horizons. Directions which could be broached with even more dynamism if the pennies did not need to be so carefully counted...

René LEFORT

The Executive Board has recommended a zero growth budget for 1994-95. Although the General conference (25.10.93 - 16.11.93) will certainly increase the budget, the rise will be nominal only, to cover inflation.
The percentage of the budget devoted to personnel costs should fall from 60.5% to 57.7%, following a reduction of 102 posts, to a total of 2,199.

***"RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW** is to affirm that law is the mainstay of the structure of the community of states"* declared Robert Ago, President of the Hague Academy of International Law upon receiving the 1992 Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize. Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, French President François Mitterrand, Portuguese President Mário Soares and President of the Côte d'Ivoire, Félix Houphouët-Boigny were among the guests at the award ceremony, held at Headquarters on May 18.

Mr. Ago said the 800,000 FF prize would be used to train young people in international law, particularly those from the world's least favoured regions.

ROBERT AGO (Photo UNESCO/Michel Claude)

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LOOKING AHEAD

The **INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY FOR ALL**, *designed to permit worldwide exchange of knowledge and ideas and create a firm commitment to this vital concern, will be attended by about 500 specialists at Headquarters from July 5 to 11. Phase II of Project 2000+ incorporating S&T directives formulated at the 1990 World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, the Forum will notably examine the need for S&T literacy, particularly with regard to development, the necessary teaching and learning environment, women's participation, etc.* **NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO in LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN** *will hold their 10th Regional Conference in Havana, Cuba, from July 12 to 16. Participants will, notably, review the Draft Programme and Budget for the 1994-95 biennium in preparation for UNESCO's General Conference (November 1993), and discuss means for strengthening the role of National Commissions in the process of decentralization of the Organization's activities. The International Board of Management of the* UNESCO/IUBS **TROPICAL SOIL BIOLOGY AND FERTILITY (TSBF)** *project will meet at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, in Harpenden (U.K), on July 16 and 17. A Training Workshop for establishing Strategies Concerning* **WOMEN OF THE NON-FORMAL SECTOR**, *in Cotonou (Benin) from July 19 to 22, will be attended by decision-makers and social scientists from 15 countries in Francophone West Africa. From August 2 to 6, some 15 specialists will attend an International Workshop on* **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION** *at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy.* **WINNERS OF UNESCO's THREE LITERACY PRIZES** *will be selected by an International Jury, meeting at Headquarters from August 10 to 12. The prizes will be awarded on International Literacy Day, September 8.*

OUR NEXT ISSUE *will focus on* **PEACE BUILDING IN CONFLICT ZONES**, *notably on UNESCO's emergency education aid to refugee children and the reconstruction of education systems.*

SOURCES